

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC 4th Presbyterian Church of Chicago

AND/OR COMMON Name

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 126 E. Chestnut St.

CITY, TOWN Chicago

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Illinois

VICINITY OF
CODE

COUNTY Cook

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME 4th Presbyterian Church Parish

STREET & NUMBER 126 E. Chestnut St.

CITY, TOWN Chicago

VICINITY OF

STATE Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURT/HOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cook County Recorder of Deeds Ofc., Cook County Bldg.

STREET & NUMBER Washington & Clark Sts.

CITY, TOWN Chicago

STATE Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Illinois Historic Structures Survey

DATE 1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Glessner House, I.H.S.S. Office, 1800 S. Prairie Av.,

CITY, TOWN Chicago

STATE Illinois

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

DESCRIPTION: The 4th Presbyterian Church is located on the west side of Michigan avenue with lot boundaries extending from Chestnut St. on the south to Delaware St. on the north. Michigan Av. is the eastern boundary with the lot extending about 250' deep to the west.

The Church and auxiliary structures form a U-shaped group of buildings with a cloister along the fourth, or east side (Michigan Av.), enclosing a grassed courtyard with fountain.

The church proper is sited on the southwest corner of Delaware and Michigan, being the northeast corner of the parish property. It is 205' long (E-W) and averages 72' in width. The roof ridge is 77' high with a 122' spire located to the south of the main entry on Michigan Av. The Manse (minister's residence) is sited on the northwest corner of Michigan and Chestnut, connected to the church by the cloister. Church offices and public meeting rooms are situated in the section of building running along Chestnut St. from the Manse west, where it meets the Sunday School section which runs north to the church.

The church is of masonry construction using a gray colored limestone. Other parish buildings are of steel construction faced with the same gray limestone. The auxiliary buildings are all two and one-half stories tall with full basement and finished attic. All have gabled roofs with slate shingles.

Main entry to the church is located on the east end facing Michigan Av. beneath a large, deep set, art glass window. The entire entry is decorated with stone sculpture, tracery and pinnacles. Immediately inside is a small vestibule which inturn leads into a long north-south narthex separated from the nave by a wooden screen with leaded glass windows. The nave is 130' long (E-W) and 50' wide including narrow side aisles between the outside wall and the massive stone pillars. The polychromed exposed wood ceiling is supported by seven exposed wood trusses. The chancel at the west contains a simple communion table two steps above the sanctuary floor, seven seats, reading desk, and an area for the choir. A large stone pulpit is located on the north side of the chancel in front of the semi-enclosed clergy seating area. The decorative features of the church interior are the polychromed ceiling, stone and wood support systems, statuary, lighting and stained glass windows.

No changes have been made in the original design of the church or manse. Some minor remodelling has taken place in the buildings used for offices and school rooms but only in an adaptive use sense. A small chapel located in the west portion of the group was totally remodelled inside in 1971. The exterior of all structures remain as they were built.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400 1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500 1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600 1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700 1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
1800 1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
X 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Ralph A. Cram & Howard V. D. Shaw

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rich in historical scholarship, as would be expected from a church by the famous Ralph Adams Cram, the 4th Presbyterian Church holds its place with dignity among the towering contemporary giants rising up around it. Cram's knowledge of Gothic brings to the church a seriousness of tone that contrasts agreeably with such older, more playful Gothic essays as the nearby Water Works tower. The auxiliary building designs by Shaw appear to be more in the English Romantic vein, well detailed and executed, and providing a less formal atmosphere suitable to buildings used for everyday affairs of the congregation.

These buildings are justly acclaimed for their aesthetic qualities and their urbanistic significance, originally as foci of the north Michigan avenue residential area, and now as human-scaled alternatives to the megalomaniac scale of giants such as the John Hancock Center across the street. As the religious home of many famous northside residents in the twentieth century, this church and its associated buildings are also significant.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

4th Presbyterian Church

The 4th Presbyterian church, organized in February, 1871, resulted from a merger of two smaller north side Presbyterian congregations, North Church and Westminster Church. The North Church building was used for services of the new congregation. On the night of the first church service, Oct. 8, 1871, the building was destroyed in the Great Chicago fire conflagration. A new building constructed in 1874 served until the present edifice was finished and dedicated, May 10, 1914.

Architects for the present buildings were Ralph Adams Cram, of Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson, New York City, and Howard Van Doren Shaw, Chicago, Associate architect. Shaw, a member of the 4th Presbyterian, was responsible for design work of the Mansie and other auxiliary church buildings while Cram was in charge of design of the church building. Shaw also designed the fountain in the courtyard as a gift to the congregation.

The stained glass windows in the sanctuary were designed and assembled in the studio of Charles J. Connick of Boston.

The polychrome ceiling designs and wooden statuary were designed and executed by Frederick Clay Bartlett & Associates of Chicago.

The style of the building is Gothic Revival, with ^{the} church of a purer Gothic than the buildings by Shaw.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

One Hundred Years-1871-1971, a church history.

A rchitectural Record, Vol.36, No.3, Sept., 1911

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

C

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

O

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Michigan Av. along the east side; Chestnut on the south; Delaware on the north, and property line extending about 250' west from Michigan Av.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Thomas G. Yamul & Paul E. Sprague, Field Surveyor & Director

ORGANIZATION

Illinois Historic Structures Survey

DATE

May 21, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

1800 S. Prairie Av.

TELEPHONE

312-793-2058

CITY OR TOWN

Chicago

STATE

Illinois

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS

NATIONAL _____

STATE _____

LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER